

then to have—for the rest of my life, try to be a good and useful citizen. And I'll have plenty of time to figure out what I should do to make a living at a later time.

It was a flattering rumor. Many of the other rumors have been flattering. But they're all, as far as I know, completely unfounded.

**Hillary Clinton on "Late Show With David Letterman"**

**Mr. Insana.** We saw Mrs. Clinton on Letterman last night. You didn't happen to bring a Top 10 list with you this evening, did you?

**The President.** No, but I thought she was fabulous. I must say, I was sort of—I was amazed. I used to think I was the funny one in our family. And I was very proud of her. I thought she was wonderful.

**Mr. Insana.** Mr. President, good to see you. Thanks for joining us tonight.

**The President.** Thank you.

NOTE: The interview began at 6:55 p.m. in a broadcast booth at the New York Stock Exchange. In his remarks, the President referred to civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson; Sanford I. Weill, chief executive officer, Citigroup; Richard Grasso, chairman and chief executive officer, New York Stock Exchange; Steve Ballmer, chief executive officer, and Bill Gates, chief software architect, Microsoft Corp.; and Mr. Gates' wife, Melinda. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Remarks at a Wall Street Project Conference Reception in New York City**

*January 13, 2000*

Well, first let me thank Reverend Jackson. And, Jackie, thank you. And, Dick Grasso, thank you for having all of us here tonight. This is the first time I have ever spoken from this microphone. You know, as President, I'm superstitious, and we've had such a good stock market. I don't ever comment on it—except I like the way it finished today. *[Laughter]*

I wanted to say just a couple of things very briefly. First of all, I want to thank Dick Grasso for his leadership in the Wall Street Project. A lot of people don't know that the

stock market was organized over 200 years ago so that there would be a mechanism through which bonds could be issued to finance America's debts in the war for our independence. So, in the beginning, this stock market had not just a profit motive but a public interest purpose. This man has infused the stock market, not only with its greatest success in history but with a public interest purpose, to include all Americans in our prosperity. And we thank him.

Most of you were with us today in the afternoon, and I won't make you sit through my speech again—or stand through my speech again. Even though I'd kind of like to, because this is the first crowd in a long time when I've been guaranteed a standing ovation. *[Laughter]*

I just want to make two points. One, I want to thank Jesse Jackson for being there on this issue for a long time, saying we would never be the country we ought to be until we really had economic opportunity for all—that's what the Wall Street Project is all about—and that it would be good business, as well as good morality.

The second point I want to make, that I made today and I leave with all of you is, this is the only time in my lifetime we have had a booming economy, improvements in all of our social fabric, the absence of crisis at home and domestic threats, and the absence of threats to our security around the world as big as those we faced in the cold war. None of this has ever happened before. The big question before us is, what are we going to do with this magic moment? Are we going to take the long look into the future and do the big things that America needs, or are we going to indulge ourselves in short-sighted, frittering away of our present wealth and serenity at home, and stability around the world?

I'm just telling you, we will never be the country we ought to be until every person, including the people and places that have been left behind in this remarkable recovery, has a chance to live the American dream. We will never be as safe a country, as whole a country, the one America we ought to be, until everybody has a chance.

That's what the Wall Street Project is all about. That's what my new markets initiative

is all about. And I want to implore you to use this millennial year of 2000 to ask all of our fellow Americans to think about those who could be a part of what we celebrate and thank God for every day, but aren't yet. If we make them a part of it, we'll really give a gift to our children and to the 21st century.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:48 p.m. at the Bell Podium at the New York Stock Exchange. In his remarks he referred to civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson and his wife, Jacqueline; and Richard Grasso, chairman and chief executive officer, New York Stock Exchange.

### Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Reception in New York City

January 13, 2000

**The President.** Thank you. First of all, let me say I've had a good time tonight. I've enjoyed taking the pictures with all of you, and it's the only way I get to make absolutely sure I meet everyone. [Laughter] So I'm sorry that we had to do it so quickly, but at least I got to see all of you briefly.

I want to thank John and Margo for opening their beautiful home for us and for being my wonderful friends for a very long time now. And I want to thank the other cochair of this event for the efforts that you made and the success that you had. And I would like to just take a moment to say some things that may be obvious to all of you about why I think it's important that you did this tonight.

When I ran for President in 1992—and I'm quite sure that most people in New York could not imagine voting for a guy who was Governor of a State that many people here couldn't find on a map, you know—[laughter]—as President Bush said, a small Southern State. [Laughter] Let me say something else—I know I usually get on—[inaudible]. I keep reading—several times in my tenure, for various reasons, the press has said that I was a lame duck, and now they say I really am because I only have a year to serve.

You know what a lame duck is, really? That's when you're supposed to show up at

an event, and you do, and nobody else is there. [Laughter] So you all were immensely reassuring to me tonight, and I thank you. I'll sleep well tonight. I thank you very much.

But let me say to you—

**Audience member.** [Inaudible]

**The President.** Listen, that is—part of the reason we're here tonight; it's a high-tech economy, you know all these cell phones—

**Audience member.** Buy a 500 share. [Laughter]

**The President.** Even I know its—[inaudible]. The thing that I want to say about it, just very briefly, why I hope you will—if somebody asked you tomorrow why did you come, apart from you wanted to get a picture, or you wanted to say something to me about a particular issue—Cyprus or something else—I'll say more about that in a minute—I just want you to remember, 7 years ago, when I ran for President in 1992, we had economic distress, social division, political conflict, and Government was discredited.

And the only reason I ran—I was actually very happy at home in my job, raising my daughter, with my friends—some of whom have become your friends, some of you in the last 7 years. But it really bothered me because I knew this was a great country that had more strengths and more potential for the 21st century than at any time in our history, and I felt we had an obligation to the rest of the world because this is the only place that has the kind of economic strength we have and political strength, and also we have people from everywhere else on Earth living in America. We have people from everywhere else on Earth, nearly, in this room tonight. [Laughter] And that's very important.

So, anyway, we set about our work. And the reason this is so important is now the American people have to decide whether to ratify the approach that has had such a large role in producing the last 7 years or take a different approach. John talked about we've gone from a big deficit to a big surplus. We've got the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years, and in the last 2 days we actually bought in Government debt before it was due, for the first time in the history of the United States. We're going to get this country out of debt.